

Cambridgeport, Dec. 17. 1842.

My Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant has<sup>sent</sup> been received, and I hasten to answer it, although I am compelled by severe illness to employ for that purpose the hand of a friend. I am just recovering from an attack of Scarlet fever, which has reduced me to the brink of the grave, and which must be my excuse if I do not enter into all the topics suggested by your letter as fully as you may think their importance deserves.

I do not think such a Conference as you suggest would be of any service to the <sup>A.S.</sup> cause; because I think it must be based upon ~~an~~ <sup>my presence</sup> ~~admission~~ <sup>There</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>my aspect</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>of opinion</sup> ~~would imply~~ <sup>that it is</sup> "minor differences" that keep the individuals you mention, from acting in concert with myself & the other members of the American A.S. Society; 2<sup>d</sup> that any "unhappy divisions" exist among the true Abolitionists of the country; 3<sup>d</sup> that "the great virtue and essential principles of Abolition are held in common by all abolitionists" - <sup>Supposing</sup> ~~if~~ you intend to include the <sup>individuals</sup> ~~persons~~ you mention as belonging to that number; 4<sup>th</sup>, that "matters of opinion & modes of action, not necessarily connected with, ~~belonging to~~ <sup>belonging to</sup> the subject of Slavery" have ever been brought upon the A.S. Platform by those who now ~~retain~~ occupy it; 5<sup>th</sup> that such an union as you propose "is practicable" between such men as myself and such



their state of mind being what  
men as those you mention, in what I have ~~reasoned~~ <sup>the attempt to</sup>  
their actions indicate, ~~suppose their present state of mind~~; & that if ~~it~~ <sup>the attempt to</sup>  
~~formed it would be sustained & exposed with God's~~  
blessing; - & all which proportions I must enter my  
distinct, peremptory & unequivocal dissent.

The Abolitionists of the County, embodied in the  
American & Imp<sup>ro</sup> A. J. Louche's, with whom I am  
identified, stand in the same position, & present the  
same front to Slavery, that they have ever done since  
the commencement of the campaign. Their Platform is  
the same it has ever been. If "minor differences" have  
caused any persons to leave it - they who remain upon it  
are not to blame for it. In my opinion, the true Abolitionists  
of the country were never more united among themselves,  
as to all the essentials of doctrines & measures, than at the  
present time. The individuals you mention I cannot consent  
to meet ~~as Abolitionists~~ <sup>in the way</sup> you propose, because by ~~so~~ doing  
I should recognize them as Abolitionists, & about charac-  
-ter <sup>they have forfeited all claim by</sup> I think, their conduct in times past & present; by what  
they have done, & what they have left undone. I prefer <sup>in heart</sup>  
to the the circumstances attending the transference of the Emancipa-  
-tion, & the <sup>mis</sup>management of the other property of the Am. A. J.  
Society; to the false issues which were made <sup>up</sup> before the  
world & as to the <sup>causes</sup> ~~matters~~ of the Secessions of 1839 & 1840;



to the slanders & libels which were circulated in this  
country in Europe respecting myself & other Abolitionists,  
for the purpose of destroying the confidence of the A. S.  
Public in our integrity & moral character. <sup>For these</sup>  
things, the persons in question ~~were~~ <sup>were guilty</sup> either as principals  
or as accessories, either by their  
direct agency, or by the silence of an affected neu-  
-trality.

The Abolitionists of the country, ~~where~~ I repeat, stand where  
they have always done. They cannot move from their position  
~~without~~ <sup>to</sup> secure the coöperation of any persons whatever, without  
compromising their principles. They are ready to welcome  
to their ranks all manner of persons who wish to enlist in  
the ~~the~~ warfare against Slavery. If the ~~persons~~ gentlemen  
to whom you ~~suggested~~ with me to meet have repented of their  
~~misdeeds~~ wrongdoings towards the A. S. Cause & its supporters  
and wish to make confession & separation, they will be  
received with open arms, & all that is past will be  
forgiven, ~~apologized~~. But <sup>no concessions</sup> ~~there can be~~ can be made  
by those who ~~are~~ <sup>in</sup> opinion with me that will imply  
to secure their coöperation that <sup>may</sup> ~~will~~ imply that their  
action has been otherwise than blameworthy in the  
highest degree.

This imperfect sketch of my views on this subject will  
satisfy you that, <sup>in my opinion,</sup> such a conference would be of  
no advantage as long as the persons you wish



me to meet, remain unrepentant, & continue to  
justify their course in the particulars to which I have  
alluded, & <sup>in</sup> others to which I have not had time to  
refer;— and when they do see the error of their ways and  
wish to amend them, it will be clearly unnecessary. All  
they will ~~need~~ have to do, in such case, will be  
to ~~express~~ <sup>express</sup> their state of their minds & to return to  
active duty upon the platform, & by the side of the  
friends, they have deserted.

Excuse the ~~imperfections of this letter which in con-~~  
sideration of the I have gone into my reasons for declining  
your proposition at some length— though by no means in  
as full & satisfactory a manner as I could have wished—  
because I supposed from the ~~fact~~ <sup>circumstances</sup> of your making this  
application to me that the party in the case ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> not  
fresh in your mind. ~~Excuse the length of~~ <sup>Pray excuse the length of</sup>  
this letter & all its imperfections, in consideration  
the circumstances under which it was written.

I am truly yours

Wm. L. Garrison  
Oct. 6. 1842.  
New York